



News Release

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Deputy Secretary of Defense Publishes DoD Biometrics Enterprise Vision Memorandum

Memorandum Calls for Optimal Use of Technologies by 2010 Enterprise-Wide Solution to be Integrated into DoD GIG Infrastructure

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 29, 2003 – The Department of Defense (DoD) Biometrics Management Office (BMO) today announced the publication of a DoD Biometrics Enterprise Vision Memorandum. The Memorandum was signed on August 25 by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

“This is an important step toward establishing a single biometric system across the DoD enterprise,” said Dr. Linda Dean, director of the BMO. “The technologies have the potential to provide deep and multi-layered protection, especially in combination with traditional security tools and methods like firewalls, smart cards and public key infrastructure. The key to this solution, though, is standardization. That’s the only way to ensure that the components are interoperable, the systems are integrated and the processes are consistent.”

In the Memorandum, Mr. Wolfowitz directs the BMO to “ensure that a scalable biometrics component of the [DoD] Global Information Grid infrastructure is in place, and that the appropriate standards, interoperability tools, testing frameworks, and approved product validations are available to assist the DoD Components in using this [biometric] technology.” The Memorandum states that, “By 2010, biometrics will be used to an optimal extent in both classified and unclassified environments to improve security for logical and physical access control.”

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The Deputy Secretary of Defense formally appointed the Army as the DoD’s Executive Agent for developing and implementing biometrics technology. The Department of Defense Biometrics Management Office (BMO) is the central entity within the DoD responsible for leading, consolidating and coordinating the development, adoption and institutionalization of biometric technologies for combatant commands, Services and Agencies, to enhance Joint Service interoperability and warfighter operational effectiveness.

